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Abstract

The invention relates to novel anhydrous (β) lactitol crystals, belonging to the orthorhombic $P2_12_12_1$ crystal system and having unit cell constants $a = 9.6 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 11.1 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 14.0 \text{ \AA}$. The invention also relates to crystalline lactitol products containing the novel anhydrous β lactitol and to a process for the preparation thereof by crystallizing from an aqueous solution of lactitol.

The novel anhydrous β lactitol is stable and nonhygroscopic and it may be used as a substitute for sugar in foodstuffs and sweets, in as well as in pharmaceutical and hygienic products.